

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 975

By Hakeem

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Volonte' Christopher Bell of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Volonte' Christopher Bell, a devoted family man, talented athlete, and dedicated professional; and

WHEREAS, Volonte' Bell will be fondly remembered by his family and friends as a kind and well-mannered young man whose most prominent features were his dynamic smile and outgoing personality; and

WHEREAS, a loving son and devoted father, brother, grandson, and nephew, Mr. Bell accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age; he was baptized at Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, and served in its youth choir and Sunday school; and

WHEREAS, always lifted up by his favorite scripture, Jeremiah 29:11, he united with Olivet Baptist Church upon moving to the Chattanooga area with his family and served there in the youth usher ministry, males mentoring group, Sunday school, and vacation Bible school; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell's love for athletics began at the age of three when he began playing various sports and swimming at the local YMCA; and

WHEREAS, he blossomed into an outstanding basketball player while attending Hunter Middle School in Ooltewah and was named to the Hamilton County Athletic Conference Middle School Class AA All-County team in 2004; and

WHEREAS, as a varsity basketball player for Ooltewah Central High School, Mr. Bell earned All-District and All-Region honors during his junior and senior years, played in the

Tennessee-Georgia games, and was named Most Valuable Player of the All-Star Classic as a senior; he also played for the Chattanooga Thunder traveling basketball team; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school in 2009, Volonte' Bell attended college and played basketball, first at Ohio Valley University in West Virginia and then at Cleveland State Community College; and

WHEREAS, he later transferred to Chattanooga State Community College, from which he received an Associate of Science degree; following his own personal accelerated plan, he worked hard and persevered to make the Dean's List and graduate from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a Bachelor of Science degree in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell's love of sports inspired him to pursue a career as a collegiate assistant basketball coach and recruiter at Chattanooga State Community College, where he was responsible for scouting and signing top talent for the school; and

WHEREAS, Volonte' Bell is survived by his father and mother, Vencent and Vanessa Bell; son, Julian Alexander Pollard; brother, Vonn Bell; grandfather, David Bell, Sr., fondly known as "Big Daddy"; grandmother, Pearl Carter, who he called "Granny"; uncles, David Bell, Jr. (Wanda), Elvis "Ray" Clay, and Michael Dickerson (Yvonne); aunts, Elaine Bell, Carolyn Bell Glover (Marcus), Angela Bell Thomas (Allen, Sr.), Monica Bell Clarke, Chandra Bell Barnes (John), and Denise Carter; great-uncles, Jesse Bell (Bobbi-Nell), Henri Tillmon (Macheryl), and Thomas Dickerson (Sheila); great-aunts, Louise Mayfield, Dorothy "Dot" Tillmon, and Alice "Faye" Loveless; and a host of cousins, relatives, and friends; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by Alice Faye Tillmon Bell, fondly known as "Big Momma," and Fred Carter, who he called "Papa Fred"; and

WHEREAS, although Volonte' Bell left us far too soon, we can take solace in knowing that he has entered a far better existence that is free of pain and strife; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell was an outstanding young man who succeeded as an athlete, coach, student, and most importantly, human being, and it is fitting that we should remember his bountiful life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Volonte' Christopher Bell, reflecting fondly upon his legacy as a committed Christian, gifted professional, and dutiful father, son, brother, grandson, and nephew.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Bell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.